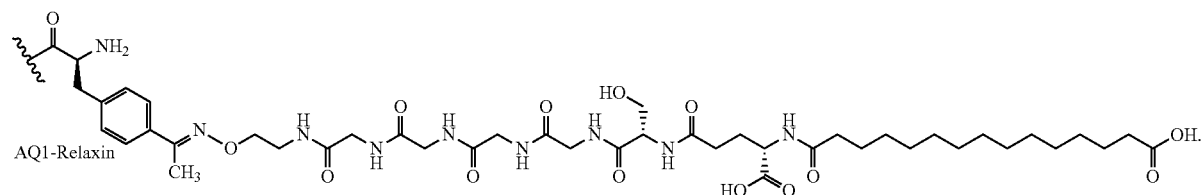


(Formula III)



24. The modified relaxin polypeptide of claim **23**, which comprises the structure shown in FIG. **9**.

25. The modified relaxin polypeptide of claim **24**, which consists of the structure shown in FIG. **9**.

26. The modified relaxin polypeptide of claim **25**, wherein said modified relaxin polypeptide exhibits an increased in vivo half-life by at least 2-fold compared to the wild-type relaxin polypeptide consisting of the relaxin A chain of SEQ ID NO: 4 linked to the relaxin B chain of SEQ ID NO: 5.

27. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the modified relaxin polypeptide of claim **25** and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

28. The modified relaxin polypeptide of claim **24**, wherein said modified relaxin polypeptide exhibits an increased in vivo half-life by at least 2-fold compared to the wild-type relaxin polypeptide consisting of the relaxin A chain of SEQ ID NO: 4 linked to the relaxin B chain of SEQ ID NO: 5.

29. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the modified relaxin polypeptide of claim **24** and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the modified relaxin polypeptide of claim **23** and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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